

FLU REACHES PEAK IN CITY

Only Three Deaths and 205 New Cases Here in Last Twenty-four Hours.

DON'T GET PANICKY OVER INFLUENZA, SAYS BLUE

Surgeon General Rupert Blue, of the United States Public Health Service today warned the country not to become panicky at the influenza situation, despite an apparent increase in the number of cases.

Nowhere, he said, is there any indication that the disease is beyond the abilities of local authorities to fight it.

From reports to the District Health Department today it appeared that the epidemic influenza outbreak had reached its peak, and that the next few days will see a steady decline in the number of cases reported. The number of deaths and new cases reported have been hovering around the same level for the past several days, indicating the situation is no worse now than it was at the beginning of the week.

Only three deaths from influenza were reported to the department during the twenty-four hours ending at noon today. These deaths were reported last night. The cases reported today number 205, making 1,355 cases for the month. Since January 1 there have been sixteen deaths from this malady.

Reports Encouraging.

Dr. William G. Fowler, District Health Officer, said today that the reports looked very encouraging and stated that he thought the peak of the outbreak had been reached. Dr. Fowler said:

"There seems to be no great change in the situation. There is neither an increase in deaths or cases noted today. The situation is very encouraging. I believe that several days will see the number of deaths and cases reported taking a slight decline. As I have said previously, there is a good deal of sickness in Washington. But as to strictly influenza cases, I do not think there are enough to warrant undue alarm. The office or among the public at large.

"The present cases are of a mild nature. The deaths are comparatively few. Most of the persons taking sick recover fully in several days."

There has been no serious increase in the number of pneumonia deaths reported, despite the fact that at this time of the year there is always a larger number of deaths recorded. Influenza, in its most serious form, is followed by pneumonia. The number of deaths recorded this month is 97, as compared with 125 during January last year and 119 during January two years ago.

Call for Automobiles.

A call for residents of Washington to furnish automobiles for the transportation of nurses to besides of persons afflicted with influenza was issued last night by Miss A. C. Bagley, in charge of the red cross work, the instructive visiting nurses' society.

Disband Fair Price Committee, Grocers' Head Urges Palmer Alleging Attempt at Boycott

Charging that the District Fair Price Committee "resorts to unfair and unjust means to club honest and law-abiding citizens into submission to its will," John H. Brayshaw, jr., president of the District Retail Grocers' Protective Association, and chairman of the executive committee of the National Grocers' Association, today sent a letter to Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer scoring the committee's alleged attempt to have boycotted grocers who fail to agree to its standard of prices set for the retail sale of milk in the District.

Suggests Committee Be Disbanded.

Brayshaw further charges, in his letter to Attorney General Palmer, that the fair price committee is non-productive, declaring that "as one of the ways to reduce prices is to eliminate all non-productive efforts, we suggest that this useless and expensive body, known as the 'Fair Price Committee,' be disbanded."

"The law of the land provides a method for dealing with profiteers, and we submit to you that a committee of men co-operating with you, great department, should take the weapons which the law provides, and not resort to what is commonly known as the boycott."

Cites Publication of Names.

"The Retail Grocers' Protective Association charges that the intent and practical effect of the campaign now being carried on by the Fair Price Committee is to have the public boycott retail grocers who refuse to sign an agreement submitted by this committee. If this is not so, why does the committee publish the name of each and every grocer who agrees to sell milk at 18 cents a quart?"

"The truth of the matter is that at least 75 per cent of the men who have signed this agreement are now paying only 60 cents a gallon for their milk, and the Fair Price Committee cannot justify its position, the fact of credit for reducing the cost of milk to the consumer through this campaign."

"When the fair price committee determined to take cases against myself and three other grocers to court, we were perfectly willing to fight the matter out in the courts. Both before and after an arm of the court had sustained our position, the fair price committee had presented its case (2) to the public through the press."

CONGRESSMEN ARE ACCUSED IN SUIT Amanda Byrd Seeks Damages of \$100,000, Alleging Conspiracy to Confine Her.

Suit for \$100,000 damages was filed in the District Supreme Court today by Amanda Byrd, of Denver, Colo., temporarily residing at the Continental Hotel, this city, formerly a bond salesman for the National City Company, New York, N. Y., against the National City Company, Congressmen William O. Oliver, from Alabama; Congressman Ben Johnson, of Kentucky; Hugh Roberts, a newspaperman, and Dr. Percy Hickling, alienist for the District; E. L. Phillips, sanitary officer, and Louis F. Zinkhan, former superintendent of the Washington Asylum and Jail, alleging conspiracy to have her incarcerated.

Plaintiff declares that defendants conspired against her and induced her to enter a Congressional investigation of the National City Company with regard to income tax returns made by the clients of the company. Miss Byrd says she was compelled to pay \$25,000 to the defendants to leave the House office building and was taken against her will to the Washington Asylum and Jail, where she was held for three days, until she escaped.

While detained, she declares she was threatened with further violence if she "persisted in accusations and attempts to secure a Congressional investigation."

Plaintiff represented by Attorneys Matthew E. O'Brien and Frank L. Hays, further alleges that she was threatened by defendants that "she would be killed in St. Elizabeth's if she did not consent to leave the District. She declares that while detained at the asylum she was denied counsel and medical attention, and that she was forced to sleep in a room with other persons who were suffering from influenza and as a result she contracted the disease."

Miss Byrd said she "was stripped of her clothing and compelled to wear the garb of a convict."

FIVE-YEAR SENTENCE FOR COLORED BURGLAR Justice Stafford, presiding in Criminal Court No. 2, today imposed a five-year sentence on Paul Frazier, colored, for house-breaking and larceny. The accused June 29 last broke into the room of a woman, a Chinaman and stole a large number of articles, valued at about \$100.

Ulysses B. Dacons, colored, received a sentence of four years in the penitentiary for assault with a dangerous weapon. He pleaded guilty to assaulting Russell M. Zirkle, a street car conductor with a knife. Jacob Brinsky, a young white man will spend one year in jail for non-support.

Capital Is Promised Relief From Shoe Profiteers

The elimination of profiteering in the price of shoes is promised by the National Shoe Retailers' Association, in a letter received today from James P. Orr, president of the association, by Howard E. Figg, special assistant to the Attorney General.

"We will place the entire machinery of our organization at the disposal of the Department of Justice, and we are about ready to submit a concrete plan which will bring shoe prices to lower levels," the letter states.

Following the meeting of the association recently in Boston, a committee was appointed to come to Washington about the first of the month to submit a plan for eliminating \$20 shoes from the market.

An important series of conferences will be held at that time with clothing manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, wool and cotton producers and representatives of labor interests involved, following which the Government will place into effect an elaborate plan for reducing the cost of clothing and shoes.

CAPITAL MOVIE MEN JOIN NEW COMBINE

Merger Expected to Do Away With Profits of Film Middleman.

Washington moving picture interests comprised in the Crandall Amusement Company are included in the Associated Exhibitors, a new combine of theater owners and managers, announced in New York yesterday, with the object of obtaining better exhibitors' advantages and protecting theaters against the film middleman.

Harry Crandall, president of the local concern, who is a director and treasurer of the new organization, said this morning that the Associated Exhibitors would begin operations with a capital stock of \$100,000, but with about \$2,000,000 available working capital, furnished by original franchise holders controlling 400 theaters throughout the country, and 8,000 affiliated theaters.

The principal object of the organization, he said, was to deal directly with the star or producer in obtaining attractions, relieving the exhibitor of the necessity of signing a long time contract for films which he had no opportunity of judging in advance, and of paying the middleman's profit.

Under the plan of organization, the country is divided into thirty-one districts, and the original franchise holders will deal with exhibitors in their territory as sub-franchise holders. The Washington franchise district will include the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

"The association will not establish a new studio at present," said Mr. Crandall, "but will contract with producers. A summary will be written and approved, and will distribute them to the franchise holders."

Masmore Kendall, president of the Capital Theater Realty Company of New York, is president of the Associated Exhibitors. Other officers include James C. Clemmer, Seattle; Saul Harris, Little Rock, and H. H. Wellenbrock, Newark.

CORONER'S JURY HOLDS NEGRO FOR COP'S DEATH

Weston Remanded to District Jail Pending Action of the Grand Jury.

Herbert Shelly Weston, colored, charged with the murder of policeman Richard A. McKimmie, of the Second precinct, today is at the District Jail awaiting action of the grand jury following an inquest held at the District Morgue yesterday.

After hearing the testimony of several witnesses, the coroner's jury returned a verdict that the policeman came to his death from a gunshot wound of the heart and chest caused by being shot with a pistol in the hands of Weston.

Detective E. J. Kelly, who, with Detective Arthur Scrivener, arrested Weston and started for the police station, today is at the District Jail. He told the jury that Weston had been questioned for several hours and of the admissions the negro is alleged to have made.

Other witnesses were Mrs. Yette Solet, 1316 Tenth street, who discovered a burglar in her home, and whose screams for help attracted Policeman McKimmie, and Mrs. Ada B. Woodson, of 1320 Tenth street, who saw the flash of two shots from the slayer's revolver as she stood in her doorway. Ellis Solet, Mrs. Nellie Endres, 1319 Tenth street; Fred E. Stokely, 1320 Tenth street, and Policeman John A. Foley, of the Second precinct, also testified.

ROPER DENIES LEADING 'DRYS'

Internal Revenue Collector Explains Letter Urging Churches To Detect Violators.

Declaring that neither the Anti-Saloon League nor any other outside organization was instrumental in his sending out a letter asking clergymen of the country to organize vigilance committees in their churches to discover and secure evidence of liquor violations, Daniel C. Roper, collector of internal revenue, today defended this policy of carrying out the policy of prohibition enforcement.

Complaints have been reported objecting to a paragraph in the circular reading:

"Your own church members, of course, will give unhesitating adherence to the prohibition laws; but it is necessary that they do more. To cooperate and give force and direction to their individual efforts it is strongly urged that a committee on law enforcement be appointed to receive all complaints of violations of law and to lodge such complaints, together with the evidence obtained, with the proper authorities."

The active support of such a committee backed by the influence of your members will be very great help to local officers, Federal, State and county, in enforcing the law. Wherever any officer fails in his duty, public sentiment should secure his removal. Persistent law enforcement is your right and duty as citizens and the moral sense of your church members will be the chief influence in creating the right public spirit in your community."

Has Had Complaints.

Mr. Roper said today that the letter to clergymen and another to civic and reform organizations originated within his office, and was in line with the policy which he announced when given the duty of enforcing prohibition to seek the aid of the public to assist his employees in preventing and punishing violations.

The head of the Internal Revenue Bureau admitted today that there had been some complaints received from clergymen, but declared that the greater part of the responses were favorable and commendatory.

Adverse Criticism.

"The letter was mailed to about 125,000 clergymen of all denominations throughout the United States," said Mr. Roper. "The letter, of course, did not require a written reply, but looked confidently to definite action on the part of the churches in the way of cooperation on their respective localities."

"The letter has not been over a dozen adverse replies received from the entire country. Some of these letters in opposition have stated that the writers were not only unfavorable to law enforcement, but also to what they called 'protectionism.'"

This, however, is so un-American, especially at this time, that I do not believe even these writers will undertake upon reflection to sustain such a policy.

"Law and order and the protection of life and property are all involved in any question of the support of the laws of the land, and Americans will not disregard the principles of democratic form of government."

"The Bureau of Internal Revenue is charged solely with executive functions, and therefore has no option in the matter of administering the law, and any and all laws which the Congress has entrusted to it."

"With the general tenders of cooperation which are coming from every quarter, there should be no difficulty in successfully administering prohibition than in administering other laws."

This circular, another indorsing proposals for a prohibition enforcement, is being sent to the churches, and a third giving advice to organizations and other agencies interested in the enforcement of prohibition, were apparently used by the Anti-Saloon League in its campaign to secure an appeal for the State's quota of \$375,000 in a fund of \$2,000,000 for world-wide extension of prohibition, enforcement of the law in this country, and "Americanization of foreigners within America."

Mr. Roper said he had not authorized the use of his name in this connection, nor was his office in any way connected with the Americanization campaign.

CONG. JOHNSON PREDICTS PEACE IN TREATY FIGHT

South Dakota Member Tells Federal Employees End Is Coming in Six Weeks.

That the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations will be settled by a compromise within six weeks, was the prediction made last night by Congressman Royal C. Johnson of South Dakota in a speech delivered before the Federal Employees' Union, No. 2, at their quarterly meeting last night.

The keynote of his address was how America can best serve the world in the new role in which she finds herself as the result of the world war. It was a lengthy, but an anti-sedition bill, pointing out features which he considered desirable as well as those with which he did not agree.

At the close of his address Congressman Johnson expressed himself as favoring retirement for Government employees, reclassification and a raise in salaries.

Among other speakers was Basanta Karmacharya, a young Hindu, who pleaded the cause of India in its fight for freedom.

Music and dancing followed the speech making.

TO DEBATE IRISH CAUSE.

The negative speakers in a debate on "Compulsory Military Training" were given the decision at a meeting of the Senior Debating Society of Georgetown University last night.

Resolved, that the United States should accord to the Irish Republic the same recognition given to other nations of the world, was the subject chosen for the next debate.

CHALMERS BRIDGE CALLED UNFIT

Fails to Meet Modern Traffic Needs, D. C. Heads Tell Congress.

The Chain Bridge, located on the Potomac river about three miles above Georgetown, fails to meet the needs of modern highway traffic, the District Commissioners told Congress today, in a report on the bill of Congressman Moore, of Virginia, which provides for an investigation and report upon the condition of the bridge.

The Commissioners' report, in part, follows:

"Chain Bridge crosses the Potomac river about three miles above Georgetown, and connects Canal Road in the District with the Leesburg turnpike in Virginia."

"The bridge was built in 1874, and consists of six spans, 125 feet each. At the present time it will carry with safety a distributed load of 75 pounds per square foot, or a concentrated vehicular load of six tons with a 7-1/2 wheel base, 5-foot gauge, or a concentrated load of eight tons with a 16-foot wheel base, 8-foot gauge."

"These permissible loadings are very much less than the weight of the loaded vehicles now in common use in this vicinity, so that the present bridge fails to meet the needs of modern highway traffic, and it serves as an obstacle to the development of commercial relations between the District and that part of Virginia."

Highly important matters affecting plans for the beautification of Washington came to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at a regular meeting yesterday.

Among these were the inscription for the District of Columbia memorial to the men who lost their lives in the world war; the design in the memorial of the Forest Service men and for the men of the Interstate Commerce Commission; the plans for the planting about the Lincoln Memorial; the plan for the design of the new building of the National Academy of Sciences, and the design for the new building of the War Department on matters relating to the American cemeteries in France.

The French ambassador, Ronald C. Lindsay, charged of Fine Arts is now in the city. He was accompanied by Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Thomas Hastings, of New York, a former member of the commission; Stephen D. Mather, director of the National Park Service, were guests of the commission at Lincoln, and afterward visited the Lincoln Memorial.

WEEKLY INSPECTIONS TO PREVENT FIRES PLANNED

Frank J. Wagner, chief engineer of the District Fire Department, said today he was considering weekly inspections of boarding and rooming houses as a means to prevent fires.

The inspecting of the 1,600 apartment houses in the city is now carried on systematically. Battalion chiefs assign weekly certain men to visit apartments in the confines of their battalions. Reports are made to the department daily, and any violations where conditions do not meet the requirement of the fire regulations notices are served immediately to remedy them.

George S. Watson, fire marshal, said today that all apartment houses would be indexed in a special file in the department. These files will be kept up to date, every inspection noted and records watched closely.

HERE TO ARRANGE FOR VETERANS' ENCAMPMENT

Col. F. Warner Karling, commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, is in Washington with several of his aids to make arrangements for the twenty-first annual encampment of the order.

Colonel Karling has been in conference with members of the House and Senate in an effort to have bills for an extra bonus and land grants for former service men passed at this session. The date of the encampment will be fixed at a meeting of the national council next week.

MICHIGANDERS TO DINE.

The Michigan State Association will hold its annual dinner in celebration of Michigan's admission into the Union next Monday evening at 6:30 o'clock at Harvey's.

LEATHER

The BEST OAK-TANNED Leather, guaranteed to last at least 4 months, can be bought at The Capital Shoe Findings Co., 437 F St. N.W., \$40,000 Worth of Shoe Findings to select from. OPEN EVENINGS